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UNCLAS ABUJA 001949

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/PD , R, IIP, PA, AF/PDPA RSmith
LAGOS FOR PAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [OIIP](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#) [SOCI](#)

SUBJECT: Ramadan 2003 PD Strategy: Engaging Islam in Nigeria

(U) Sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

1.(U) This is in response to an action request. This telegram has been cleared by DCM Rick Roberts.

2.As in previous years, the Mission in Nigeria, including PAS, is planning an active schedule of events.

3.Washington File. PAS will distribute President Bush's Ramadan message and other WF articles related to Ramadan.

4.Iftaars. PAS Abuja provided press support for the POL/ECON "Unity" Iftaar in Kaduna on November 4th and has prepared packs on "Islam in the US" to distribute at two Iftaars being planned by the DCM on November 10th and 13th. PAS will host a special Iftaar for taar for the Press on November 18th in Kaduna. PAS will also provide support for the Chargi's Iftaar on November 19th.

5.Print Publications. PAS staff will prepare a "Thanksgiving/Ramadan feature for publication in Crossroads (English Language) and Magama (Hausa language) magazines.

6.AFNETS/TV Productions. PAS Lagos has requested an AFNET on 'Islam in the U.S.' PAS Abuja is planning to host a showing of the NTA co-op production on 'Islam in the U.S.' at the Yar'adua Center (named in memory of a leading northern politician).

7.Public Appearances. PAS Lagos has scheduled a series of appearances on Muslim focused TV and radio channels to discuss shared values and to touch on the Ramadan messages of President Bush and Secretary Powell. Programs include Star FM/Murhi International TV, Eko FM's morning show, Eko FM's Tiwan Tiwa noon Friday Muslim issues show. There will also be a Tuesday briefing for the print media, which will use a Muslim American an spouse. PAS Abuja will take advantage of Ramadan and International Education Week to have the EAC sponsor a round table discussion for alumni and PAS staff at Barewa Government College, Zaria. Most of Nigeria's Muslim leaders and the first Prime Minister graduated from Barewa College.

MEECE